

Export of Non-basmati Rice

*332. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum from the All India Rice Exporters Forum regarding export of rice other than Basmati;

(b) if so, the broad details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Government is not aware of any such forum nor has it received any Memorandum for such forum.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Changes In Economic Policies

[English]

*333. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made an assessment of the recent liberalisation of economic policies including abolition of licences and permits;

(b) if so, the details of the positive gains to the economy, in concrete terms so far; and

(c) further changes, if any proposed to be made in economic policies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI

RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). The Government is continually monitoring the response of the economy to the policy initiatives introduced after June. It is too early for the full impact of these measures to be felt but the results obtained thus far show distinct improvement in certain areas. The immediate objective of restoring confidence in the Indian economy has been achieved. Foreign exchange reserves have increased substantially. We have been able to redeem the gold pledged by the RBI and also the gold sold by SBI earlier. There has also been some decline in the rate of inflation from the peak level 16.7% in August to around 14% though inflation is still running too high. The structural reforms in trade and industrial policy will also have a favourable impact over the next 18 months.

(c) The Government is keeping a close watch on the situation and depending upon the emerging trends further policy changes are expected to be announced as and when necessary.

Processes and Technologies Developed by DRDO

*334. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL
SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed many new processes and technologies which are being transferred to industries in private sector;

(b) whether these are transferred through the National Research Development Corporation or any other organisation; and

(c) the number and details of such processes and technologies transferred by